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Sacramentary and Lectionary Supplement

THE
CONGREGATION
OF THE
MOST HOLY
REDEEMER



Published 2007

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JANUARY 5

Saint John Nepomucene Neumann, Bishop

Memorial

JOHNN NEUMANN WAS BORN IN PRACHATITZ IN BOHEMIA (Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied theology at the seminary of Budweis. Zealous for the missionary life and wanting to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support.

He was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls. Since he wanted to live in a religious community that corresponded more closely to his missionary vocation, he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, being professed on January 16, 1842. He was a tireless missionary, busying himself in particular with the German immigrants, first in Baltimore, then in Pittsburgh. He filled the role of vice-provincial of the Redemptorists from 1846 to 1849, after which he became the parish priest of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore. In 1852, at the age of forty-two, he was named bishop of Philadelphia. He had a strong effect on the religious life of the United States by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. In two years the number of students in the parochial schools went from 500 to 9000. He founded a new religious institute: the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. In the brief space of seven years he built eighty-nine churches, as well as several hospitals and orphanages.

A worthy son of St. Alphonsus, like him, he made a vow never to lose a minute of time. As a bishop he was holy and tireless. Uninterruptedly he visited his vast diocese, on one occasion travelling more than twenty five miles of mountain roads by mule in order to confirm a young boy who was sick.

On January 5, 1860, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a street in Philadelphia. He was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on the occasion of his canonization, Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint in these words: "He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants."

Entrance Antiphon The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage (Ps 16: 5-6).

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, you wished your bishop, Saint John Neumann, to shine forth
for his pastoral ministry among the most abandoned.**

**Grant, that imitating his untiring zeal for holiness
in the discharge of daily works,
we may be able to serve your church fruitfully.**

**We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 9:16–19.22–23

Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, if I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 23)

R. The Lord leads us on the path of peace.

The Lord is my shepherd
there is nothing I shall want
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
He is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 10:14)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own and my own know me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 10: 11-16

The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Graciously look down, O Lord,
upon the Sacrifice which we offer you
and ignite within us the fire of your love
with which the holy bishop John was aflame.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**You give the Church this feast
in honor of Saint John Nepomucene Neumann.
You inspire us by his holy life,
instruct us by his preaching,
and give us your protection in answer to his prayers.**

**We join the angels and the saints
as they sing their unending hymn of praise:**

Communion Antiphon Truly I tell you, you who have left everything and followed me,
will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life (Mt 19:28.29).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, refreshed with the body and blood of your beloved Son,
we humbly pray that through the merits
of your blessed Bishop John Neumann,
we may follow on earth our chief Shepherd himself
and come to the eternal banquet of heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

JANUARY 14

Blessed Peter Donders, Priest

Memorial

PETER DONDERS WAS BORN IN TILBURG IN HOLLAND on October 27, 1809. From his youth he felt himself called to the priesthood, but, because of the poverty of his family, his schooling was cut short so he could take up the weaver's trade of his father. This did not prevent him from teaching catechism to children in his free time. He also had a good influence on young people his same age. At the age of twenty-two, with the help of his parish priest, he entered the minor seminary of St. Michael-Gestel as a seminarian and part-time worker, thus paying for his room and board. He was ordained a priest on June 5, 1841. He was able to follow his missionary vocation, setting out for Suriname, which was then a Dutch colony.

For the next fourteen years, his base of ministry was in the city of Paramaribo where he dedicated himself to some 2,000 resident Catholics and also regularly visited the slaves of the plantations (around 8,000 of them in the Paramaribo area of some 40,000 in all of Suriname), as well as the military garrisons and the native Indians and black slaves along the rivers. In 1856, he offered himself as a volunteer for the government leprosarium of Batavia, where he remained, with the exception of a few short intervals, for the next twenty-eight years, caring for the residents bodily and spiritually. He left them, only for a few months, in 1866, when he asked to join the Redemptorists to whom Pope Pius IX had confided the Apostolic Vicariate of Suriname. He was invested with the religious habit on November 1 of that year and professed his vows on June 24, 1867.

Religious profession, in associating him with a missionary congregation, gave him a more vivid sense of the apostolic life in community, allowing him to leave Batavia more often to give himself to the conversion of the native Indians and black slaves. But the name of Donders remained bound to the leprosarium of Batavia. He died among his lepers, poor among the poor, on January 14, 1887, mourned as their benefactor and invoked as a saint. Pope John Paul II beatified him in St. Peter's on May 23, 1982, during the 250th jubilee year of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.

Entrance Antiphon "Come, you that are blessed by my Father," says the Lord:
"I was sick and you visited me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the
least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Mt 25: 34. 36. 40).

OPENING PRAYER

**Father, you showed your wonderful mercy toward lepers
through Blessed Peter, your priest.**

**By his example and prayers
may we serve you through our loving care
for those who are in the greatest need.**

**We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 John 3:14-18

We ought to lay down our lives for one another.

A reading from the First Letter of John

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 112)

R. The Lord loves those who give with joy.

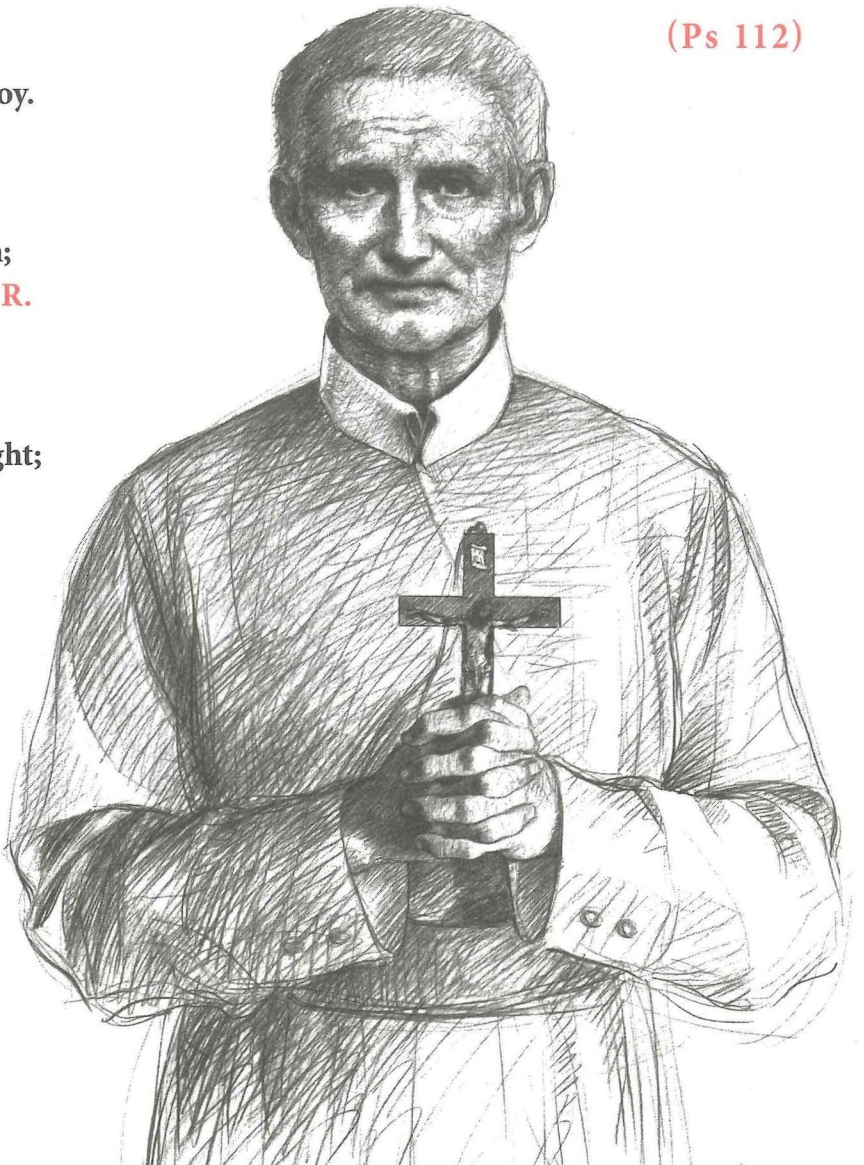
Happy the man who fears the Lord.
who takes delight in all his commands.
His children shall be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed. **R.**

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is light in the darkness for the upright;
he is generous, merciful and just. **R.**

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever. **R.**

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes. **R.**

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **R.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 13:34)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another,
just as I have loved you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbor as yourself.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time, when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, our Father, accept our gifts
in this memorial of the infinite love of your Son,
and through the intercession of your saints,
strengthen us in generous dedication to you and to our brothers and sisters.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**You renew your Church in every age
through the witness of faith of your saints
with the creative power of your Spirit,
and you give us, your children,
a sure sign of your love.**

**They inspire us by their heroic lives,
and help us by their constant prayers
to be the living sign of your saving power,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**We praise you, Lord with all the angels and saints
in their song of praise.**

Communion Antiphon No one has greater love than this, to lay down
one's life for one's friends (Jn 15:13).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, you have made us companions at your table,
grant that we may imitate the example of Blessed Peter Donders,
who devoted himself to you with his whole heart
and gave himself untiringly for the good of your people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

MARCH 15

Saint Clement Mary Hofbauer, Priest

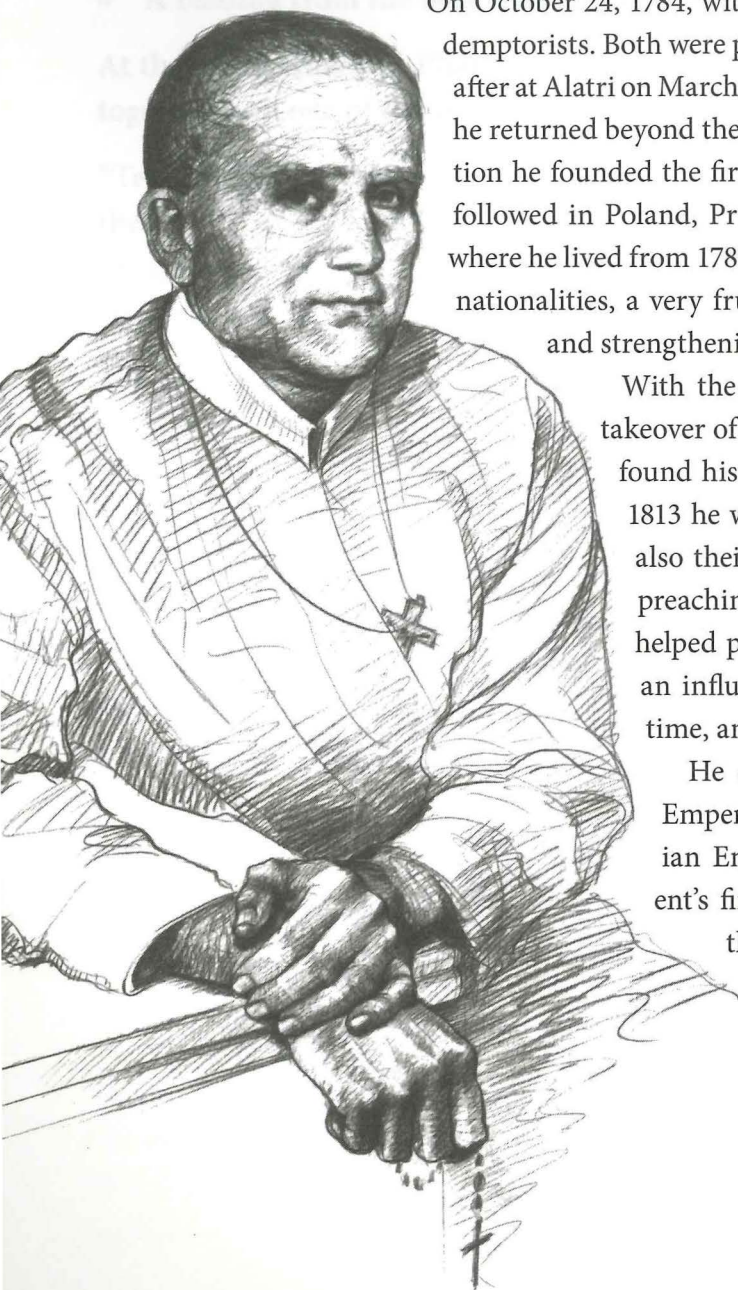
Feast

CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER WAS BORN IN TASSWITZ IN MORAVIA (Czech Republic) on December 26, 1751. In his early youth, after the death of his father, he worked as an apprentice baker. Then, having become a servant in the Premonstratensian Abbey at Klosterbruck (Znaim), he was able to follow the call to the priesthood, first by completing his secondary schooling, and then his catechetical, philosophical and theological studies in Vienna. During this time, he made yearly pilgrimages to Rome, where he encountered the Redemptorists.

On October 24, 1784, with his friend, Thaddeus Hübl, he was received by the Redemptorists. Both were professed on March 19, 1785, and ordained priests shortly after at Alatri on March 29. After a few months of study in the house of Frosinone, he returned beyond the Alps, where in his role as vicar general of the Congregation he founded the first house of the Redemptorists in Warsaw. Other houses followed in Poland, Prussia, Germany, Switzerland and Romania. In Warsaw, where he lived from 1787 to 1808, with the collaboration of young men of various nationalities, a very fruitful apostolate was developed, promoting good works and strengthening the piety of the faithful.

With the dissolution of the Redemptorists in Warsaw, after the takeover of Poland by Napoleon, he was forced to leave Warsaw and found his way to Vienna where he ministered until his death. In 1813 he was appointed rector of the church of the Ursulines and also their confessor. Through the charism of spiritual direction, preaching, confession and works of charity, he converted and helped people of every social class. Through his activity, he had an influence on the Congress of Vienna, on the culture of the time, and notably on the romantic movement.

He died at Vienna on March 15, 1820. On April 19, the Emperor admitted the Congregation into the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Thanks to Father Joseph Passerat, one of Clement's first companions, the Congregation spread from Vienna throughout Northern Europe. Clement was canonized by Saint Pius X on May 20, 1909. He is co-patron of Vienna and Warsaw.



Entrance Antiphon I am not ashamed of the gospel. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written,
“The just one who is righteous will live by faith” (Rom 1: 16-17).

The Gloria is sung.

OPENING PRAYER

O gracious God,
Out of concern for your people
you blessed Saint Clement Mary
with outstanding zeal for the salvation of souls,
and through him proclaimed the kingdom of your grace.
Grant, that through his intercession,
we may persevere in faith
and follow the path marked out for us by the example of his life.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 3:6-11

We are God's servants working together; you are God's field, God's building.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 117)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News

Praise the Lord, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples! **R.**

For great is his steadfast love towards us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Eph 4:15)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

(In Lent) Praise to you, Lord, King of eternal glory!

Speaking the truth in love,
we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

(In Lent) Praise to you, Lord, King of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-9

Your peace will rest on that person.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

From among the disciples, the Lord appointed seventy and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, our Father, accept our lives along with these gifts,
and through the mystery which we celebrate,
strengthen us as you strengthened Saint Clement Mary.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**You are glorified in your saints
for their glory is the crowning of your gifts.**

**In the life of Saint Clement Mary,
you give us an example.
In our communion with him,
you give us his friendship.
In his prayer for the church,
you give us strength and protection.
His witness spurs us on to victory
to share the prize of everlasting glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**With the angels and archangels
and the whole company of the saints
we sing our unending hymn of praise:**

Communion Antiphon I thank my God, confident that the one who began a good work
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1: 3. 6).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**O God, you have nourished us in this eucharistic banquet
which, in marvellous ways, unites the faithful of all times.
Grant, we pray,
that we may receive strength from this heavenly bread
so that we may be enabled to attain to the everlasting banquet
in the company of your saints.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THURSDAY AFTER THE THIRD SUNDAY
FOLLOWING PENTECOST

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus

Optional Memorial

THERE IS ONLY A MINIMAL DIFFERENCE between the devotion to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus and that which the Church renders to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. With loving reverence the Church celebrates this symbol of the infinite love with which Christ gave us the sacrament of the Eucharist, and so remains with us till the end of time. For this reason, special worship is given to this demonstration of the love of Christ.

So it was that Leo XIII established the Archconfraternity of the Eucharistic Heart in the church of San Gioacchino in Rome. Benedict XV approved devotion to the Heart of Jesus who gives us the Eucharist. Finally Pius XII, in his encyclical *Haurietes aquas* encouraged the devotion in these words: "It will be difficult for us to appreciate fully the love that inspired Christ to give himself to us as the food of our souls, unless we practice a special devotion to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus."



Entrance Antiphon Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end (Jn 13:1).

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ,
in pouring out the riches of your love for us,
you instituted the Eucharist and the Priesthood.
Grant us, we pray,
that we may be able to love your most loving heart
and to make worthy use of your gifts.
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Ephesians 3:8-19; 4:7.11-13

The love of Christ completes the mystery of the unity of humankind.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 116: 12-13.15-18)

R. With joy you shall draw water from the wells of salvation

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. **R.**

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfill
before all his people. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jer 31:3)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 22: 14-20

Christ instituted the Eucharist and the Priesthood to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord Jesus,
you deign to have your Church celebrate these mysteries
in order to be offered as a holy victim together with you.
Inflame our hearts with the fire of your love.
You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

The day before he was sacrificed for us
on the altar of the cross,
he poured out the riches of his love upon humankind.
By this the faith of believers is nourished,
hope is fostered, charity is strengthened,
and a pledge of eternal glory is received.

And so, with the Angels and Archangels,
with the Thrones and Dominations,
and with all the heavenly host,
we sing without end the hymn of your glory:

Communion Antiphon I am with you always, to the end of the age (Mt 28: 20).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord,
we have received your gifts from the fullness of your heart.
Through them strengthen, we pray, the unity of the faithful
whom you have admitted to be partakers of the banquet of your body,
and fill with love the priests in your service.
You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.



JUNE 27

The Blessed Virgin Mary of Perpetual Help

Feast

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, participated intimately in the economy of salvation, especially in the mystery of the Redemption realized by Christ. She cooperated with her Son in the salvation of the human race. As a result, she is, for all, Mother of Perpetual Help.

According to an old tradition, one of her images under this title was brought to Rome from the Island of Crete toward the end of the fifteenth century. It was placed in the Church of St. Matthew on the via Merulana during the pontificate of Alexander VI and was venerated there for about three centuries. When this church was destroyed during the Napoleonic invasions, the icon disappeared. Providentially, it was found again in 1866. At that time Pius IX confided it to the Redemptorists who exposed it for public veneration in the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer dedicated to St. Alphonsus. From then on, the veneration of this miraculous image has continued to grow among the faithful, and is now widely diffused throughout the whole world.

Entrance Antiphon O Mother of God, shield us under your wings from all dangers.
You are our refuge, our greatest hope. Destroy and bring to nought those
who would harm us because of our sins. O most blessed One,
lead us to yourself who are our haven of salvation. —Syriac Liturgy

The Gloria is sung.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have given us your own Mother Mary,
whose wonderful image we venerate,
to be our Mother ever ready to help us.
Grant, we pray,
that we, who continually seek her motherly aid,
may be found worthy to enjoy increasingly
the fruit of our redemption.
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7: 10-17

Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 71:1-4a.5a.12)

R. Help me, O Lord, in my distress.

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me;
pay heed to me and save me. **R.**

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold. **R.**

Free me from the hand of the wicked.
It is you, O LORD, who are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, since my youth. **R.**

O God, do not stay far off:
My God, make haste to help me! **R.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 12:1-6.10

A great portent appeared in heaven.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God".

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 19:25.27)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Standing near the cross of Jesus was his mother.

And Jesus said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 19:25-27

Here is your son. Here is your mother.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord,
through your kindness
and through the intercession of the blessed Virgin and Mother, Mary,
may this offering redound
to our present and eternal prosperity and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preface: Mary, Image and Mother of the Church I

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks;
we especially praise you and proclaim your glory
as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

She received your Word in the purity of her heart
and, conceiving in her virgin womb,
gave birth to our Savior
and so nurtured the Church at its very beginning.

She accepted God's parting gift of love
as she stood beneath the cross
and so became the mother of all those
who were brought to life
through the death of her only Son.

She joined her prayers with those of the apostles,
as together they awaited the coming of your Spirit,
and so became the perfect pattern of the Church at prayer.

Raised to the glory of heaven,
she cares for the pilgrim Church with a mother's love,
following its progress homeward
until the day of the Lord dawns in splendor.

Now, with all the angels and saints,
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Communion Antiphon Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We beseech you, O Lord:
may the glorious intercession
of your Immaculate Mother and ever-virgin Mary
help free us from all dangers
and by her goodness bring together in love
those upon whom she showered her never-failing blessings.
You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

JUNE 28

Blessed Nicholas Charnetsky and Companions

The Redemptorist Martyrs of the Ukraine

Memorial

THE FOUR REDEMPTORIST MARTYRS OF THE UKRAINE are Bishop Nicholas Charnetsky (1884–1959), Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky (1903–1973), Father Zenon Kovalyk (1903–1941) and Father Ivan Ziatyk (1899–1952).

Nicholas Charnetsky was born in Semakivci in Halychyna, Western Ukraine in 1884. He did his theological studies in Rome and was ordained as a diocesan priest in 1909. After obtaining his doctorate in theology he was spiritual director and professor of theology at the major seminary in Stanislaviv. He entered the Redemptorist novitiate in Zboisk in 1919 and was professed in 1920. During his early years he was assigned to teach in the minor seminary and subsequently to the giving of popular missions. He was ordained bishop in 1931 and appointed the Apostolic Visitor to the Ukrainian Catholics of Volyn. From 1931 to 1939 he ministered to the people of Volyn, Polisia, Pidlissia, and Belorussia. During World War II he was in Lviv, ministering pastorally and teaching at the theological academy. From 1945 to 1956, he was imprisoned in about thirty Soviet labor camps and prisons. Following his release in 1956, he returned to Lviv and acted as bishop of the suppressed Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. He died in 1959.

Vasyl (Basil) Velychkovsky was born in Stanislaviv, Western Ukraine in 1903. He studied at the Major Seminary in Lviv and was ordained a deacon in 1923. He entered the Redemptorists as a deacon, professed vows in 1925, and was ordained a priest shortly after. After teaching at the minor seminary in Zboisk, Vasyl worked as a missionary for the next twenty years in rural Ukraine. He was arrested in 1945 and was condemned to death, but the death sentence was commuted to ten year's imprisonment. He was released in 1955. He was consecrated bishop by Metropolitan Slipyj in a hotel room in Moscow in 1963. He became the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine. Arrested once more in 1969, he spent three years in prison. In the Spring of 1972, near death, he was exiled from Ukraine. He died in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1973. It is believed that his death was caused by a slow-acting poison administered prior to his release from prison.

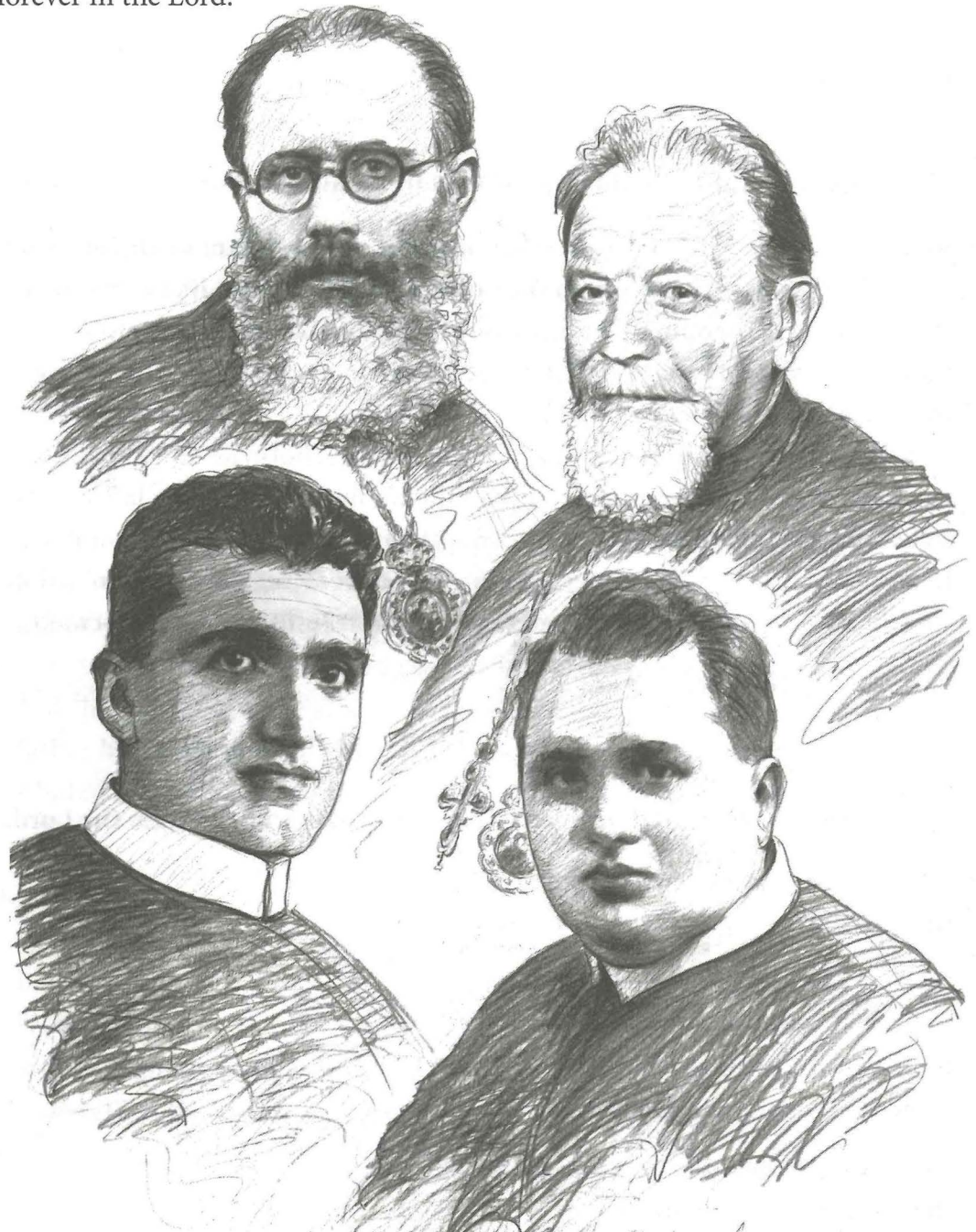
Zenon Kovalyk was born in 1903 in Ivachiv Horishniy near Ternopil in 1903. He joined the Redemptorists and professed vows in 1926. He studied philosophy and theology in Belgium and was ordained in 1932. He went with Bishop Charnetsky to Volyn as a parish missionary and subsequently to Stanislaviv where he also conducted missions. Zenon was a fearless preacher of God's Word and love of the Mother of God. He was arrested by the Soviets in 1940. While in prison he continued his pastoral ministry among the prisoners. When the Soviet prisons were opened on the arrival of the invading German army, Father Zenon's body was found crucified to a wall of the prison of Zamartynivska in 1941.

Ivan Ziatyk was born in 1899 in Odrekhova, southwest of Sanok (now part of Poland). He entered the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Peremyshl in 1919 and was ordained in 1923. He became prefect of the seminarians and taught theology and catechetics at the seminary. He joined the Redemptorists in 1935, professing vows in 1936. He taught Scripture and dogmatic theology at the Redemptorist seminary in Holosko (near Lviv). Sub-

sequent assignments were to the monastery in Ternopil as well as to the minor seminary in Zboisk (near Lviv) where he was superior of the community. The difficult situation in which the Ukrainian Catholic Church found itself (with all its bishops arrested and with the Belgian Provincial expelled), resulted in Father Ivan holding the posts of the Provincial of the Redemptorists and the Vicar General of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was arrested in 1950, condemned to ten years imprisonment but died of a savage beating in 1952.

The four Redemptorists were among twenty-five Ukrainian martyrs beatified during the papal visit to Lviv in 2001.

Entrance Antiphon The holy martyrs rejoice in the kingdom of heaven because they followed in the footsteps of Christ. They shed their blood for his name and they rejoice forever in the Lord.



OPENING PRAYER

Glorious and ever living God,
you brought salvation to humanity through the Cross of Christ.
By the merits and intercession of the blessed bishop Nicholas,
and his companion martyrs, Vasyl, Zenon, and Ivan,
grant that, in difficult times we may be steadfast in the faith
and enjoy eternal happiness in their company.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Timothy 2:8-13; 3:10-12

All who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

The Word of the Lord.

ANTIPHONAL RESPONSE

(Ps 124)

R. Those who lay down their life for the Lord's sake, will rise with the Lord.

"If the Lord had not been on our side,"
this is Israel's song. **R.**

"If the Lord had not been on our side
when men rose against us,
then would they have swallowed us alive
when their anger was kindled. **R.**

"Then would the waters have engulfed us,
the torrent gone over us;

over our head would have swept
the raging waters.” **R.**

Blessed be the Lord who did not give us
as prey to their teeth!
Our life, like a bird, has escaped
from the snare of the fowler. **R.**

Indeed the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We praise you, O Lord, and we bless your name.
The mighty army of martyrs praises you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:17-22

They will hand you over to councils as a testimony to them.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: “Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive the gifts of your people, Lord,
in memory of Blessed Nicholas and his companions.
May the Eucharist which sustained them in their martyrdom
obtain for us dignity and patience when our faith is tested.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

Your holy martyrs, Nicholas, Vasyl, Zenon and Ivan,
followed the example of Christ,
and gave their lives for the glory of your name.
Their death reveals your power
shining through our human weakness.
You choose the weak to make them strong in bearing witness to you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
In our unending joy we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory for ever:

Communion Antiphon "Those who lose their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it", says the Lord (Mk 8:35).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you have welcomed us at your table on this memorial day
of your martyrs Nicholas, Vasyl, Zenon and Ivan.
Grant us the manifold riches of your grace
so that from their glorious witness
we may learn to be strong in the hour of testing
and to rejoice in the hope of victory.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE 30

Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli, Priest

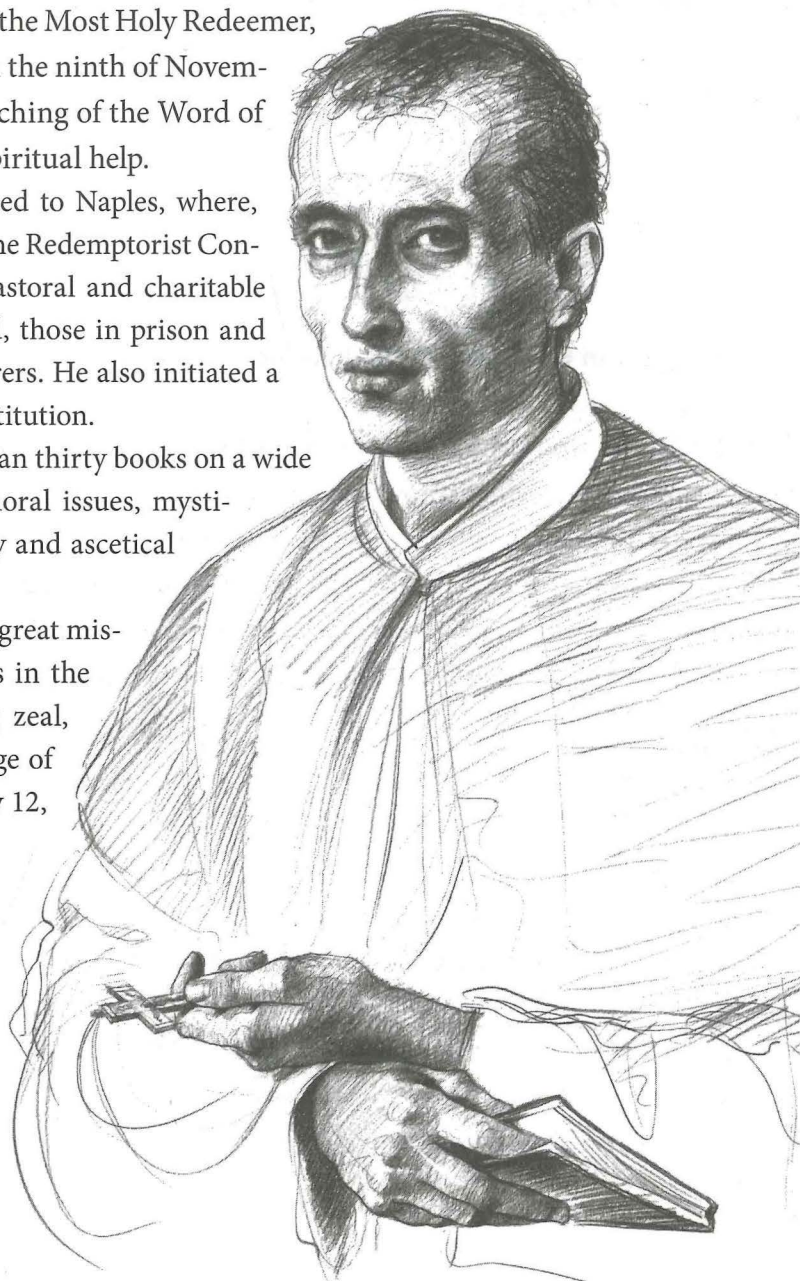
Memorial

GENNARO SARNELLI WAS BORN IN NAPLES on September 12, 1702. Son of the Baron of Ciorani, he had a solid cultural and spiritual formation. Dedicating himself to the study of jurisprudence, he gained a doctorate in civil and canon law at the age of twenty. Caring for the sick in the Hospital for the Incurables, he felt the call to the priesthood. During this time he also came to know Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, who was his first biographer. Ordained a priest in 1732, he dedicated himself especially to the catechesis of young boys and to the rehabilitation of girls at risk of becoming prostitutes. In June of the following year he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, founded by Alphonsus Maria de Liguori on the ninth of November, 1732. He dedicated himself to the preaching of the Word of God to those who were most destitute of spiritual help.

For reasons of health, in 1736, he returned to Naples, where, while continuing the missionary activity in the Redemptorist Congregation, he took up again his previous pastoral and charitable activities, especially among the sick, the old, those in prison and the young boys forced to work as dock-laborers. He also initiated a fervent movement against the spread of prostitution.

A prodigious writer, he published more than thirty books on a wide range of subjects: socio-juridical studies, moral issues, mysticism, pedagogy, pastoral practice, mariology and ascetical theology.

In 1741 he organized and took part in the great mission among the spiritually abandoned areas in the outskirts of Naples. Spent by his burning zeal, he died in Naples on June 30, 1744, at the age of forty-two. John Paul II beatified him on May 12, 1996.



Entrance Antiphon How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet
of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news,
who announces salvation (Isaiah 52:7).

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you have chosen your priest, Blessed Gennaro Maria,
to show forth your love for the suffering
through preaching and good works.

Grant that, animated by your love,
we may follow his example in giving ourselves generously,
taking to heart those in need.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Is:52:7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 96)

R. Come, let us sing to the Lord; it is he who saves us.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name;
Proclaim his help day by day. **R.**

Tell among the nations his glory,
and his wonders among all the peoples.
The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods. **R.**

Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."
The world he made firm in its place;
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 15:4-5)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Abide in me as I abide in you, says the Lord;
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 15: 1-8

Abide in me as I abide in you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord, sanctify these gifts which we offer you in memory of
Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli.

Transform them for us into the sacrament of salvation,
so that, as we draw near to your altar,
we may be freed from every sin,
and may share in the banquet of eternal life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Through the witness of faith of Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli
you renew your Church
with the creative power of your Spirit,
and you give us a sure sign of your love.
His example and his intercession sustain us in the pilgrimage of life
so that the mystery of your salvation may be fulfilled in us.

United with the angels and saints,
we sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

Communion Antiphon "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing," says the Lord. (Jn 15:5)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, our God, this sharing in your sacraments,
nurtures in us the faith,
which has been passed on to us by the Apostles,
and which Blessed Gennaro Maria Sarnelli served
with loving dedication.
We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



THIRD SUNDAY OF JULY

The Most Holy Redeemer

Title of the Congregation

Solemnity

CHRIST IS THE SOURCE OF OUR SALVATION, which is realized through the mystery of the Redemption. Today this mystery is celebrated, not primarily in its historical development—as in the Paschal Triduum – but in its inner meaning and universality, that is, as having its source in the love of the Father who gives the Son and the love of the Son who gives himself for us.

Pope John Paul II writes in *Redemptoris Hominis*, #8: “The Redeemer of the World! In Him has been revealed, in a new and more marvellous manner, the fundamental truth concerning creation, to which the Book of Genesis gives witness when it repeats several times: ‘God saw that it was good.’ This goodness has its source in Wisdom and in Love. In Jesus Christ the visible world which God created for man—the world that, when sin entered, ‘was subjected to futility’ (Rom 8:20)—recovers again its original link with the divine source of Wisdom and Love. Indeed, ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son’(Jn 3:16). As this link has been broken in the man Adam, so in Christ, it has been reforged.

Christ, the redeemer of the world, is the one who has penetrated in a unique, unrepeatable way into the mystery of the human being and entered the human ‘heart.’ The Second Vatican Council teaches:

The truth is that only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. For Adam, the first man, was a type of him who was to come (Rom 5:14), Christ the Lord. Christ, the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of His love, fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his most high calling.

And it continues: “He who is the ‘image of the invisible God’ (Col 1:15), is himself the perfect human being who has restored in the children of Adam the likeness to God which has been disfigured ever since the first sin. Human nature, by the very fact that it was assumed, not absorbed, in him, has been raised in us also to a dignity beyond compare. For, by his Incarnation, he, the Son of God, in a certain way united himself with each human being. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart, he loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, he has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin.” (GS 22) He is, the Redeemer of humankind!

Entrance Antiphon By your blood, O Lord, you redeemed us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made us to be a kingdom and priests serving our God (Rev 5:9-10).

The Gloria is sung.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you appointed your only-begotten Son as Redeemer of the world,
and through him you overcame death and mercifully restored us to life.
Grant that we, who recall these blessings,
may deserve to be united to you by an enduring bond of love
and to enjoy for ever the fruit of that redemption.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:2b-6

I will make with you an everlasting covenant.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Is 12:2-6)

R. The Lord is my strength and my song.

Truly God is my salvation;
I trust, I shall not fear.
for the LORD is my strength, my song,
he became my savior. **R.**

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
Give thanks to the LORD, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the LORD,
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

By the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Is 53:10b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever believes in him will have eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord, we pray,
accept the gifts we offer from the blessings you have bestowed on us;
and may the sacrifice which we offer you now on earth
become for us the reward of eternal redemption.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
it is truly good and fitting,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Redeemer whom you had promised in the Covenant of old,
you consecrated and sent to us
to restore your gifts to lost humankind.

He came among us in our mortal flesh,
offered himself in sacrifice,
and by his death and resurrection
brought your salvation to all peoples.
In him we have plentiful redemption from our age-long slavery.
In him we have truth, light and life.
In him we have been signed with the Holy Spirit who was promised,
and we are blessed with the hope
of obtaining the full liberty of sons and daughters.

And so, with the angels and saints
we praise you and acclaim you with the joyful hymn:

Communion Antiphon To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (Rev 1:5-6).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord,
through our redemption by your Son
you give us the grace to hope in what we believe.
Refreshed now with the gift of your salvation,
we humbly pray you
to lead us also, in joy, to the attainment of our goal.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Or)

Lord, Jesus Christ,
we pray that you will preserve your gifts in us
who have partaken of your Sacred Body and Precious Blood,
through which we have been redeemed.
Free us from the evils of this present life,
and lead us to the gifts which are eternal.
You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

AUGUST 1

Saint Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Bishop and Doctor

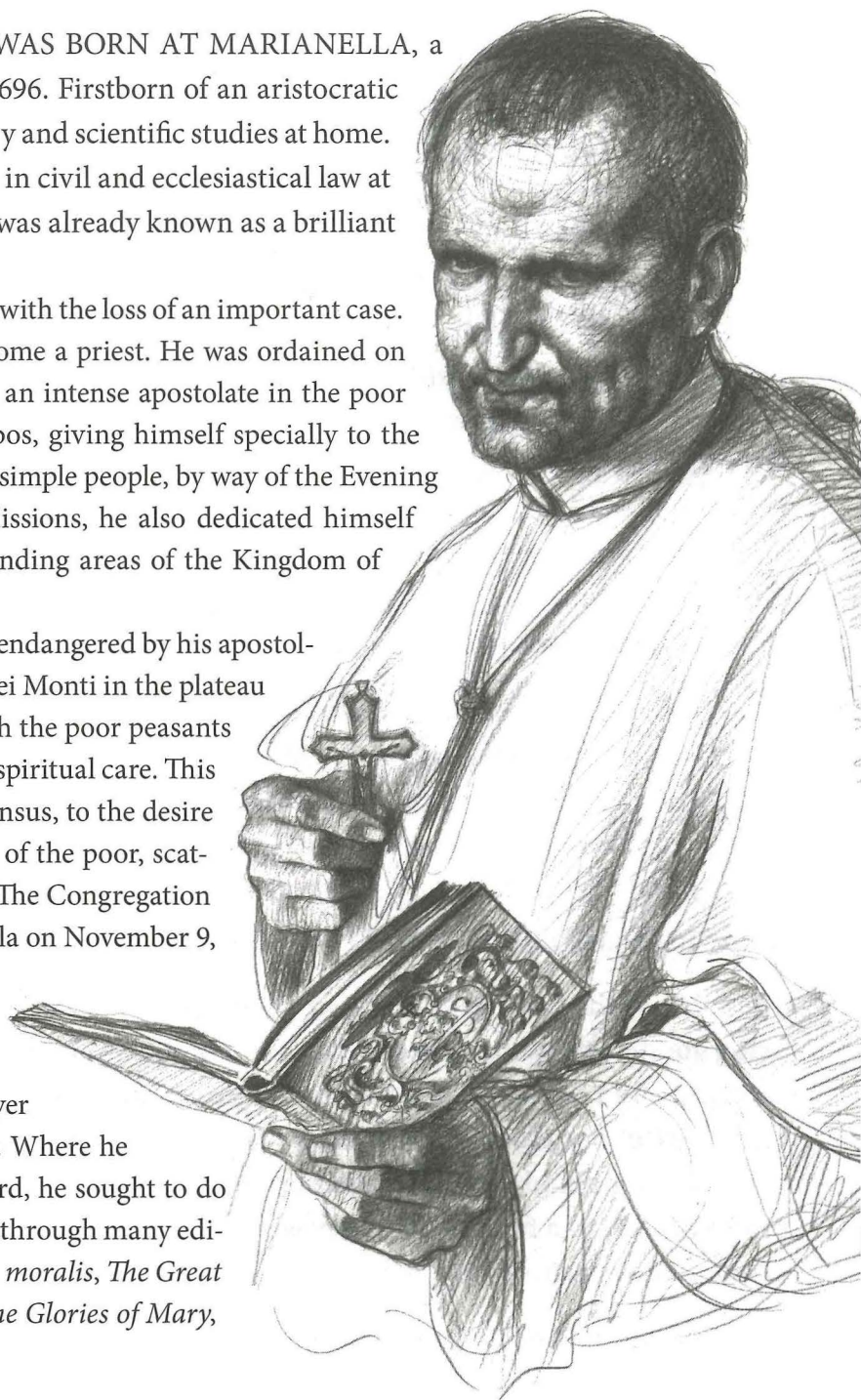
Founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer

Solemnity

ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI WAS BORN AT MARIANELLA, a sector of Naples, on September 27, 1696. Firstborn of an aristocratic Neapolitan family, he completed his literary and scientific studies at home. He studied law and achieved his doctorate in civil and ecclesiastical law at the age of sixteen. At the age of twenty he was already known as a brilliant lawyer in the Neapolitan courts.

The turning point in his life came in 1723 with the loss of an important case. This led him to leave the Tribunal and become a priest. He was ordained on December 21, 1726. He immediately began an intense apostolate in the poor sectors of Naples with the urchins and hobos, giving himself specially to the catechesis and moral formation of the most simple people, by way of the Evening Chapels. As a member of the Apostolic Missions, he also dedicated himself to the preaching of missions in the surrounding areas of the Kingdom of Naples.

At a point where his health was seriously endangered by his apostolic labors, he went for a rest to Santa Maria dei Monti in the plateau above Amalfi. There he came in contact with the poor peasants and shepherds who were totally deprived of spiritual care. This experience gave birth, in the heart of Alphonsus, to the desire to found an institute for the evangelization of the poor, scattered in the countryside and rural villages. The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer was born at Scala on November 9, 1732. Alphonsus, along with his first companions, went from village to village, giving all of his human and spiritual gifts for the conversion of sinners. Preaching and prayer formed the heart of his missionary activity. Where he could not reach people with the spoken word, he sought to do so through his writings. His 111 works went through many editions. The most important are: his *Theologia moralis*, *The Great Means of Salvation*, *The Eternal Maxims*, *The Glories of Mary*, and *The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ*.



In 1762 he was named bishop of Santa Agata dei Goti. As bishop, Alphonsus continued his missionary fervor. He worked especially for the formation of the clergy. In 1775 he left his diocese and withdrew to Pagani, where he died on August 1, 1787, at the age of 91. He was canonized by Gregory XVI on May 26, 1839. On March 23, 1871, Pius IX declared him a Doctor of the Church and on April 26, 1950, Pius XII proclaimed him patron of Confessors and Moral Theologians.



Entrance Antiphon The spirit of God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted
(Is 61:1).

The Gloria is sung.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, you constantly build up your Church
by the lives of your saints.
Give us the grace to follow Saint Alphonsus
in his loving concern for the salvation of people,
and so come to share his reward in heaven.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 61:1-3

God has anointed me and sent me to preach the good news to the poor.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 89: 1-4.20-21.24.26)

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

With my chosen one I have made a covenant;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty forever
and set up your throne through all ages. **R.**

I have found David my servant
and with my holy oil I anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him
and my arm shall make him strong. **R.**

My truth and my love shall be with him;
by my name his might shall be exalted.
He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me." **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 15:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I chose you, says the Lord,
to go and bear fruit that will last.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mt 9:35-10:1

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

✠ A reading of the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, our Father,
you gave to Saint Alphonsus Mary de Liguori
the grace to celebrate these mysteries,
and through them to offer himself to you as a holy victim
in union with the priesthood of Christ.
Graciously consume our hearts
in the fire of your Holy Spirit.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As you instruct us
through the teachings of our holy Father, Alphonsus Mary,
and by the example of his life,
so you strengthen us through his intercession
with your many graces.

We rejoice on this festive day
and offer you a sacrifice of praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty,
the Dominations adore you,
and the Powers tremble before you.
The Heavens and the Virtues of heaven,
and the blessed Seraphim acclaim you with sweet accord.
We pray you to let our voices be joined with theirs,
as we sing in humble praise:

Communion Antiphon We proclaim Christ crucified,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:23–24).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
you made Saint Alphonsus
a faithful minister and apostle of this holy Eucharist.
May all who believe in you receive it often
and give you never-ending praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 25

Blessed Methodius Dominic Trčka, Martyr

Memorial

BLESSED METHODIUS WAS BORN IN FRYDLANT, MORAVIA (now the Czech Republic) on July 6, 1886. He joined the Redemptorists in 1902 and made his profession August 25, 1904. He was ordained in Prague on July 17, 1910. He spent the early years of his ministry as a parish missionary. His desire to work among the Greek Catholics was blessed by his superiors. With this in mind he was sent to Lviv, where he learned Ukrainian and Old Slavonic along with the Byzantine Rite. After a brief period of inculturation, he worked among the Greek Catholics in the area of Halic, in Galizia, and then in East Slovakia in the Eparchy of Prešov, where he carried on intense missionary activity. He was nominated first Vice-Provincial of the Vice-province of Michalovce in 1946. He began to work zealously to found new houses and to form young Redemptorists. On the night of April 13 and 14, 1950, all religious communities were suppressed by the Czech government. Father Methodius was arrested, tortured and condemned to twelve years imprisonment. In 1958 he was transferred to the prison of Leopoldov. He was suffering from pneumonia contracted during solitary confinement, which was imposed on him for singing a Christmas carol. As a result of those harsh conditions, he contracted tuberculosis. He died on March 23, 1959. He was first interred in the prison cemetery, and then in 1969 his remains were transferred to the Redemptorist plot in the cemetery of Michalovce. Pope John Paul II proclaimed him to be Blessed Dominic Methodius on November 4, 2001.

Entrance Antiphon The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
He is their helper in time of trial (Ps 36:39).

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God,
you gave to Blessed Methodius, your priest and martyr,
outstanding bravery in the face of trials and torture.
With the help of his prayers,
may we remain faithful to the Gospel of truth,
and with him come to contemplate your face for all eternity.
We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Peter 4:12-19

Rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 126)

R. Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.

When the Lord delivered Sion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

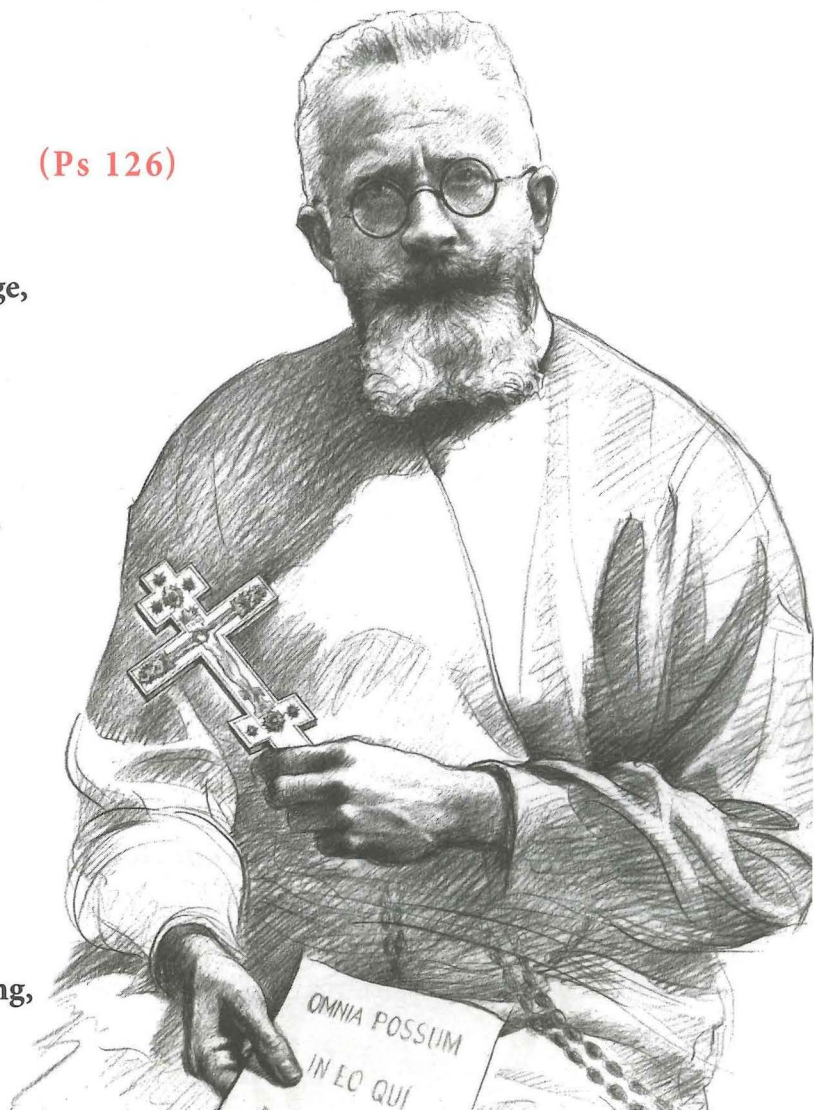
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said,
"What marvels the Lord worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
They come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Mt 10:32)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others,” says the Lord,
“I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:28-33

Do not fear those who kill the body.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive our sacrifice, Lord,
in memory of your blessed martyr Methodius Dominic
whom no trial could separate from the Body of your Church.
We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

Your holy martyr, Methodius Dominic,
followed the example of Christ,
and gave his life for the glory of your name.
His death reveals your power
shining through our human weakness.
You choose the weak to make them strong
in bearing witness to you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
In our unending joy we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory for ever:

Communion Antiphon If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves,
and take up their cross and follow me, says the Lord (Mt 16:24).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our Father, you renew your church through these holy mysteries.
Enable us to imitate the fortitude
of Blessed Methodius Dominic
and so obtain the prize promised to those
who suffer for the sake of your name.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 26

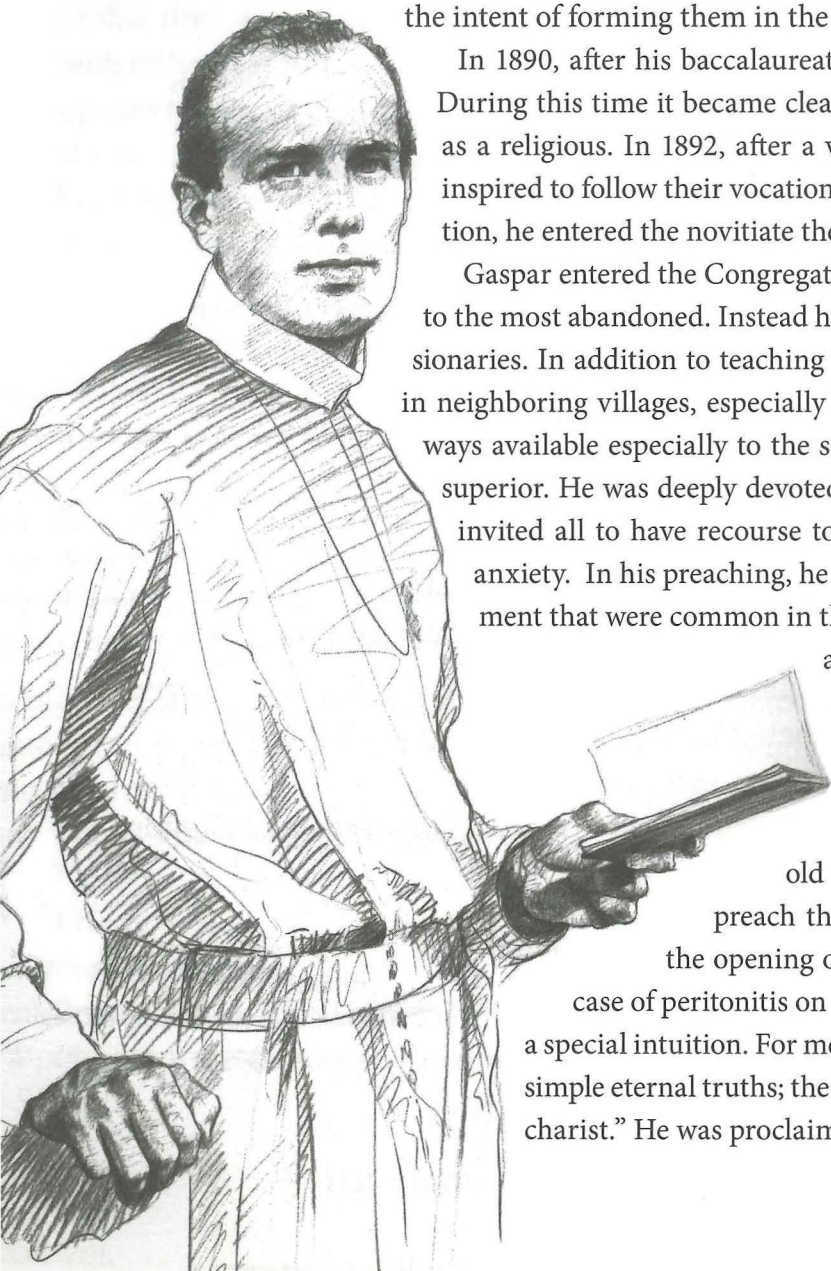
Blessed Gaspar Stanggassinger, Priest

Memorial

GASPAR STANGGASSINGER, THE SECOND OF SIXTEEN CHILDREN, was born in Berchtesgarden, Germany on January 12, 1871. From his youth Gaspar had a growing desire to become a priest. He used to engage his brothers and sisters with preachings and processions. At the age of ten, he went to Freising to continue his schooling where he found the studies rather difficult, so that there was even question of quitting his studies. But he succeeded in making steady progress with effort and prayer. In 1884 he was admitted to the minor seminary in Freising. During summer vacations he organized boys' clubs with the intent of forming them in the Christian life.

In 1890, after his baccalaureate diploma, he entered the diocesan seminary. During this time it became clear to him that the Lord was calling him to live as a religious. In 1892, after a visit of the Redemptorist missionaries, he was inspired to follow their vocation as missionaries. In spite of his fathers' opposition, he entered the novitiate the same year and was ordained a priest in 1895.

Gaspar entered the Congregation with the intention of preaching the Gospel to the most abandoned. Instead his superiors appointed him to form future missionaries. In addition to teaching he always gave pastoral assistance at churches in neighboring villages, especially by preaching. Although very busy, he was always available especially to the students who saw in him more a friend than a superior. He was deeply devoted to the Eucharistic Lord and in his preaching invited all to have recourse to the Blessed Sacrament in times of need and anxiety. In his preaching, he did not have recourse to the threats of punishment that were common in the preaching of the time. Rather he was simple and direct, inspiring the faithful to confidence and fraternal charity and to take Christian life seriously. In 1899, the Redemptorists opened a seminary in Gars, Bavaria, and he was sent there as director. He was twenty-eight years old at the time. But on arrival, he was only able to preach the retreat to the students and to participate in the opening of the school year before succumbing to a fatal case of peritonitis on September 26. He used to say: "The saints have a special intuition. For me, who am not a saint, what is important are the simple eternal truths; the Incarnation, the Redemption and the Holy Eucharist." He was proclaimed blessed by John Paul II on April 24, 1988.



Entrance Antiphon “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs,”
says the Lord (Mk 10:14).

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God,
who gave Blessed Gaspar the grace to announce the faith with joy
and to dedicate himself to the formation of candidates for the priesthood,
grant, through his intercession,
that we may follow his example
and become cooperators of the divine Redeemer
in word and in deed.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Philippians 4: 4-9

To express our gratitude.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 131)

R. Be my strength, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor haughty are my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. **R.**

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. **R.**

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Mk 10:15)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

“Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it,” says the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mark 10:13-16

Jesus and the little children.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God, our Father, accept the gifts of your people
in honor of Blessed Gaspar,
and through our participation in this sacrifice
grant that we may express in our lives the power of your love.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
and to raise up to you the hymn of blessing and of praise.

Today we honor your saints
who consecrated their lives to Christ
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

What love you show us
as you recall humankind to its first innocence,
and invite us to taste on earth
the gifts of the world to come!

Now with the saints and all the angels
we praise you for ever:

Communion Antiphon No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends (Jn 15:13).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, may this holy banquet sustain us,
so that, after the example of Blessed Gaspar,
we may bear witness in thought and deed
to the light of your truth and to love for our brothers and sisters.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5 OCTOBER

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Memorial

FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS WAS BORN IN FÜSSEN, Bavaria, on January 11, 1819. He studied philosophy at the University of Munich and began theology as a seminarian for the diocesan clergy. After visiting the Redemptorists in Altötting, where he heard of their missionary work in North America, he decided to join them. With their approval, he set off for the United States in 1843 where he made his novitiate. He made his profession in Baltimore in May 1844 and was ordained priest there in December. His first assignment was to St. Philomena's in Pittsburgh where he served for six years as assistant pastor with (Saint) John Neumann as pastor and superior of the community. He then served as superior of the community for three more years. During this time he was also the novice master. In 1854, he was appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore, and in 1857 pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cumberland as well as prefect of students there and in 1862 in Annapolis, Maryland. Replaced as prefect of students, he preached missions in German and English throughout the Northeast and Midwest United States. Father Seelos was always an active and highly successful missionary — particularly devoted to the confessional — and was revered as an exceptional confessor and spiritual director. After a year as assistant pastor in St. Mary's in Detroit, in 1866 he was assigned to the parish of the Assumption in New Orleans, Louisiana as pastor. There he made a great effort to care for the poor, sick, and neglected. While caring for victims of yellow fever, he contracted the disease himself. Only a year after being assigned, he died in New Orleans on October 4, 1867. Francis Seelos was beatified in 2000.

Entrance Antiphon Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever (Dn 12: 3).

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you made your priest, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,
outstanding in love,
that he might proclaim the mysteries of redemption
and comfort those in affliction.

Grant, by his intercession,
that we may work zealously for your glory
and for the salvation of all.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 2:2-8

We are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves.

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

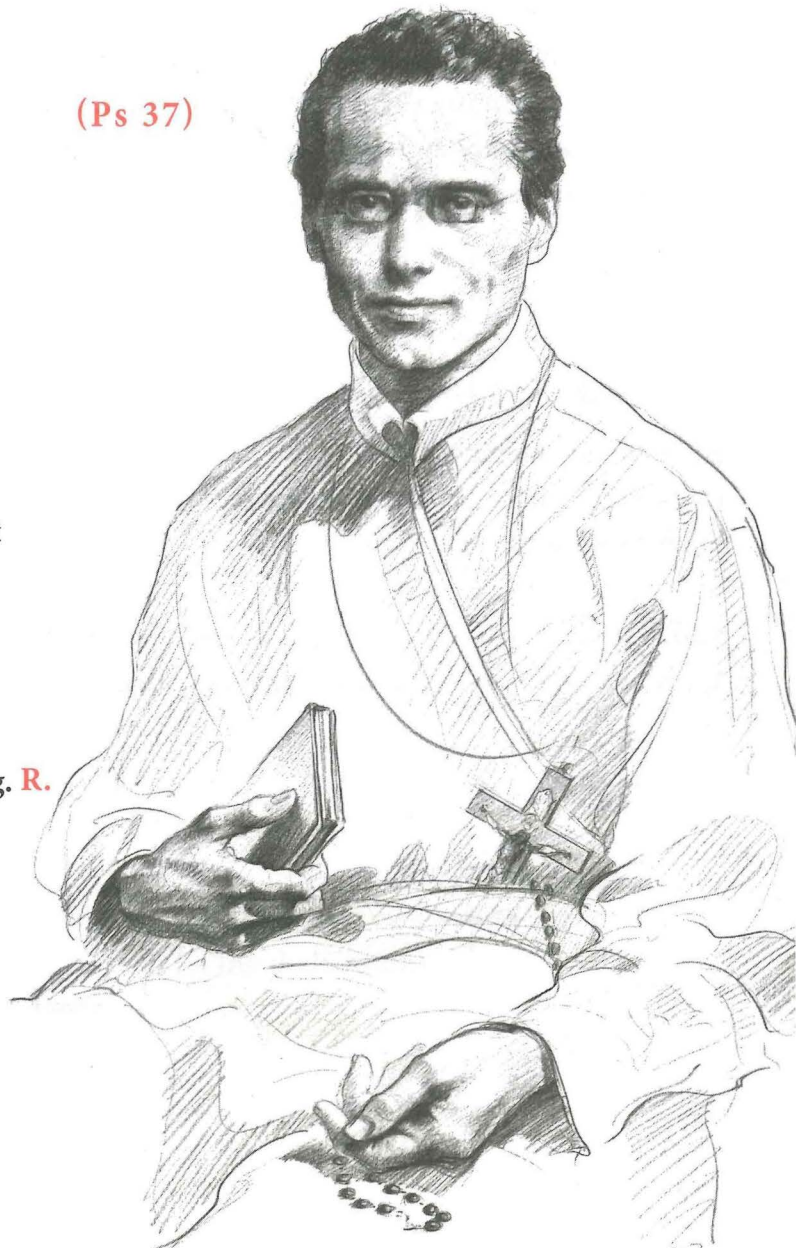
(Ps 37)

R. The mouth of the just speaks wisdom.

If you trust in the Lord and do good,
then you will live in the land and be secure.
If you find your delight in the Lord,
he will grant your heart's desire. **R.**

Commit your life to the Lord,
trust in him and he will act,
so that your justice breaks forth like the light
and your cause like the noon-day sun. **R.**

The mouth of the just utters wisdom
and their lips speak what is right;
the law of the Lord is in their heart
and their steps shall be saved from stumbling. **R.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Mt 10:5.9)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

“The Kingdom of God is in the midst of you,” says the Lord,
“bring the message of peace to all men and women.”

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus and the little children.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive our offering, Lord,
in memory of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.
From the altar of sacrifice,
may perfect praise rise up to you,
and may the fullness of your mercy descend upon us.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE—HOLY MEN AND WOMEN

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**You are glorified in your saints,
for their glory is the crowning of your gifts.**

**In their lives on earth
you give us an example.**

**In our communion with them,
you give us their friendship.**

**In their prayer for the Church
you give us strength and protection.**

**This great company of witnesses spurs us on to victory,
to share their prize of everlasting glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Now with the saints and all the angels
we praise you for ever:**

Communion Antiphon “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news:
I am with you always, to the end of the age,”
says the Lord (Cf Mk 15:16; Mt 28:20).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord,
may our sharing in your sacraments
nourish in us the faith handed down by the Apostles
and which Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos served with such loving dedication.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OCTOBER 16

Saint Gerard Majella, Religious

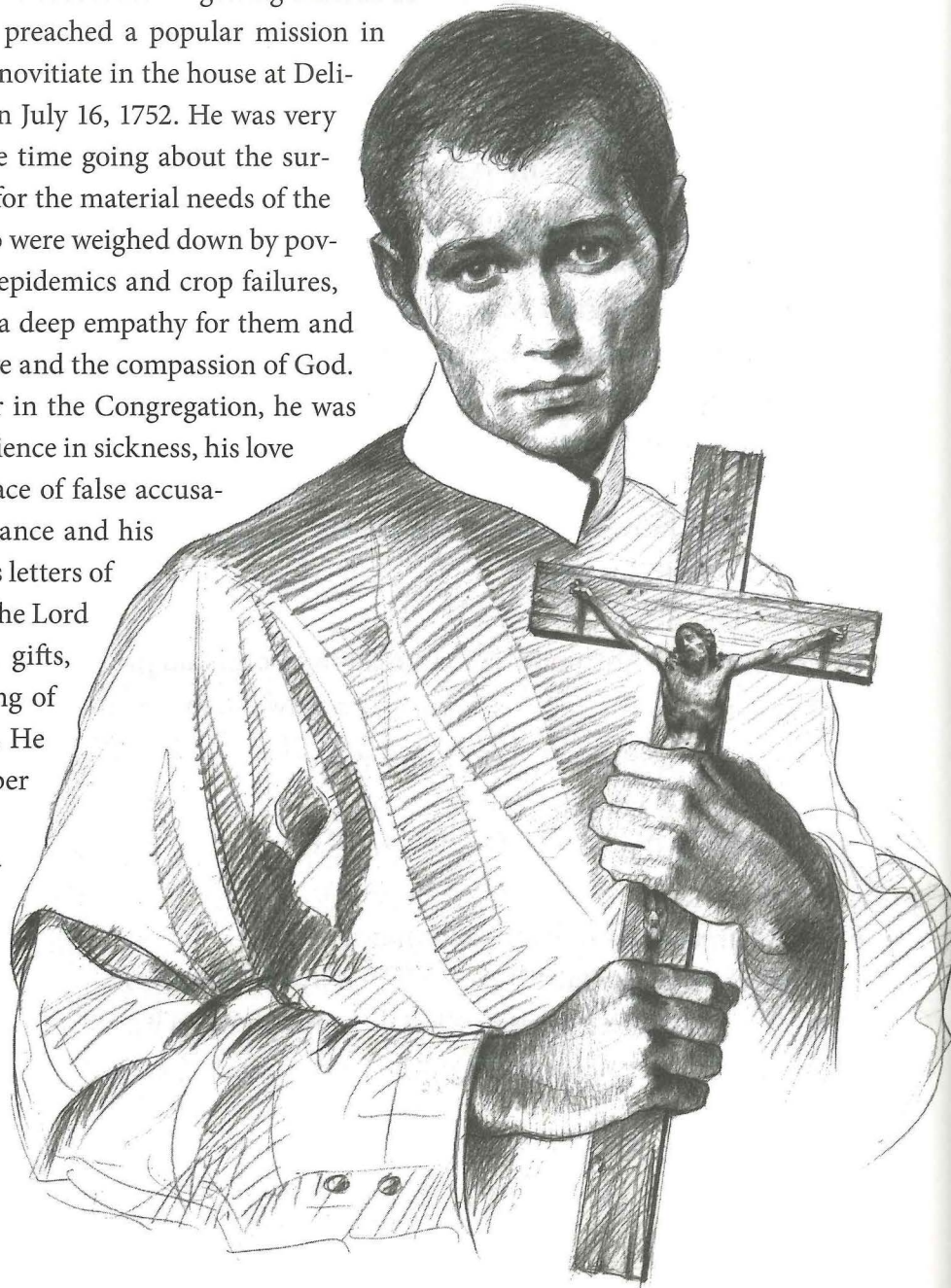
Memorial

GERARD MAJELLA WAS BORN IN MURO LUCANO (Potenza) in southern Italy on April 6, 1726, in a family of humble circumstances. From his parents, Gerard learned the love of prayer and sacrifice. When his father died, Gerard, being the only boy, had to provide for his family by working as a tailor. At the age of fourteen he sought to enter the Capuchin friary but he was rejected because of his delicate health. After a short time as the domestic servant of the bishop of Lacedonia, he returned to tailoring, but with minimal income.

In April of 1749, with utter tenacity, he succeeded in getting himself accepted by the Redemptorists who had preached a popular mission in Muro. After a trial period and a year of novitiate in the house at Deliceto, he made his religious profession on July 16, 1752. He was very observant of the rule, while at the same time going about the surrounding countryside to collect money for the material needs of the community. His presence to people, who were weighed down by poverty and illiteracy, and at the mercy of epidemics and crop failures, was seen as a sign of hope. Gerard had a deep empathy for them and gave to all a testimony to trust in the love and the compassion of God.

During his five years as a lay brother in the Congregation, he was remarkable for his apostolic zeal, his patience in sickness, his love for the poor, his deep humility in the face of false accusation, heroic obedience, his spirit of penance and his constancy in prayer. He wrote numerous letters of spiritual direction and a "Rule of Life." The Lord favored him with numerous spiritual gifts, among which were prophecy, the reading of people's hearts, and the gift of miracles. He died at Materdomini (Avellino) on October 16, 1755.

He was beatified by Leo XIII on January 29, 1893, and canonized by Pius X on December 11, 1904. Remembered among the people for his love for them, he is especially invoked as patron for mothers, particularly in time of pregnancy and for their infants.



Entrance Antiphon I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Gal 2:19–20).

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you willed to draw Saint Gerard to yourself from his earliest years
and to mold him to the image of your crucified Son.
Grant, we pray,
that following the example of his life,
we may be transformed in the same image.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Philippians 3: 8-14

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 16:1-2.5.7-11)

R. You are my God, my only good.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord, 'You are my God.'

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup.

it is you yourself who are my prize. **R.**

I will bless you, Lord, you give me counsel.

and even at night direct my heart.

I keep you, Lord, ever in my sight;

since you, are at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

You will show me the path of life,

the fullness of joy in your presence,

at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 12:26)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

and where I am, there will my servant be also.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 12:23-32

Your peace will rest upon him.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord, you accepted the oblation of your servant, Gerard,
as he offered himself daily with Christ.

Accept the sacrifice of our will
together with the gifts we present at your altar.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Father, all powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You are glorified in your saints,
for their glory is the crowning of your gifts.

In the life of Saint Gerard,
you give us an example.

In our communion with him,
you give us his friendship.

In his prayer for the church
you give us strength and protection.

His witness spurs us on to victory,
to share the same crown of glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So, with the angels and archangels
and the whole company of the saints
we sing our unending hymn of praise:

Communion Antiphon But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.
If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed (1 Pet 4:13–14a).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord,
may the sacrament we have received
stir up in us the desire to please you always,
so that, like Saint Gerard,
we may ever strive to do your will.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.